AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of images registered therein, wherein at least one of the images comprises facial image data, the apparatus comprising a processor for executing program instructions for:

receiving a name of a person;

~~an extractor for selecting a point contained in at least one of said images;~~

~~determining if the selected point is included in a portion of the image that is facial image data,~~

~~designating the facial image data comprising the selected point as designated facial image data when the point is selected, if the selected point is determined to be within a portion of the image that is facial image data, and~~

~~extracting the designated facial image data from the at least one of said images when it is determined that the selected point is within a portion of the image that is facial image data;~~

~~a retrieval key image designator for~~ automatically converting the received name to a retrieval key image ~~designating said extracted facial image data as a retrieval key image~~; and

~~a retriever for~~ graphically comparing said retrieval key image to at least one other image in the image database and retrieving from said image database an image containing facial image data that is identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~designator~~ program instructions further comprise instructions for designating ~~designates~~ more than one ~~said~~ retrieval key image.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~extractor~~ program instructions further comprise instructions for extracting ~~extracts~~ more than one designated facial

image from said images in said image database for storage and ~~said designator designates~~ for

designating a retrieval key image from said more than one extracted designated facial image.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said ~~retriever~~ program

instructions further comprise instructions for using ~~uses~~ said designated retrieval key image to

retrieve more than one image containing facial image data identical or analogous to said designated

retrieval key image.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said ~~designator~~ program

instructions further comprise instructions for designating ~~designates~~ more than one retrieval key

image.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon

which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image

data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

   ~~selecting a point in at least one of a plurality of images registered in the image database;~~

   ~~determining if the selected point is part of a facial image when the point is selected;~~

   ~~designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial~~

~~image;~~

   ~~extracting the designated facial image data when it is determined that the selected point is~~

~~part of a facial image;~~

   ~~designating said extracted designated facial image as a retrieval key image; and~~

   receiving a name of a person;

   automatically converting the received name to a retrieval key image; and

graphically comparing said retrieval key image to at least one other image and retrieving

from said image database an image containing a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval

key image based on said graphical comparison.

8. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising <u>a processor for executing program instructions for:</u>[[;]]

<u>receiving a name of a person;</u>

~~a retrieval key image extractor for~~ extracting facial image data from said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database,

~~wherein said facial image data is selected by selecting a point within an item of image data and determining that facial image data comprises the selected point, and~~

~~the facial image data is extracted when the point is selected;~~

~~a storage for storing said extracted facial image data therein;~~

~~a retrieval key image designator for~~ <u>automatically converting the received name to a designated retrieval key image</u> ~~designating a retrieval key image from the stored extracted facial image data~~; and

~~a retriever for~~ graphically comparing said designated retrieval key image to ~~more than one item of~~ <u>said extracted facial</u> image data and retrieving from said image database more than one item of image data containing facial image data identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

9 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

~~selecting a point contained in at least one of a plurality of items of image data registered in the image database;~~

~~determining if a facial image comprises the selected point when the point is selected;~~

~~designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial image;~~

extracting the designated facial image data from a plurality of items of image data registered in the image database ~~when it is determined that the selected point is part of a facial image;~~

receiving a name of a person;

automatically converting the received name to a retrieval key image; and

~~storing in a storage said extracted designated facial image data;~~

~~designating a retrieval key image from the stored extracted image data; and~~

graphically comparing said designated retrieval key image to ~~at least one other item of~~ said extracted facial image data and retrieving from said image database more than one item of image data that contains a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

12. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising a processor for executing program instructions for:

receiving a name of a person;

~~a retrieval key image extractor for~~ extracting facial image data from said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database,

~~wherein said facial image data is selected by selecting a point within at least one of the items of image data and determining that facial image data comprises the selected point, and~~

~~the facial image data is extracted when the point is selected;~~

~~a storage for storing extracted facial image data from at least two items of image data therein;~~

~~a retrieval key image designator for~~ automatically converting the received name to more than one designated retrieval key image ~~designating more than one retrieval key image from the stored extracted facial image data~~; and

~~a retriever for~~ graphically comparing said more than one designated retrieval key images to ~~more than one item of~~ said extracted facial image data and retrieving from said image database image data containing a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

13 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

~~selecting a point contained in at least one of a plurality of items of image data registered in the image database;~~

~~determining if a facial image comprises the selected point when the point is selected;~~

~~designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial image;~~

extracting ~~the designated~~ facial image data from a plurality of items of image data registered in the image database ~~when it is determined that the selected point is part of a facial image;~~

~~storing in a storage extracted facial image data from more than one of said plurality of items of image data;~~

receiving a name of a person;

automatically converting the received name to more than one designated retrieval key image; and

~~designating more than one retrieval key image from said stored extracted facial image data; and~~

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graphically comparing said more than one designated retrieval key image to ~~at least one other item of~~ said extracted facial image data and retrieving from said image database items of image data containing a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

16. (Currently Amended) The image data retrieval apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ said program instructions further comprising instructions for:

~~an image obtainer for~~ obtaining information corresponding to an image;

~~a table for having recorded therein~~ recording in a table said information and the retrieval key image, correlated with each other; and

~~a converter for~~ referring to said table to convert said information to a retrieval key image.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, ~~wherein said information obtainer~~ said program instructions further comprising instructions for obtaining ~~obtains~~ more than one item of information.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

obtaining information corresponding to an image; and

converting said information to a retrieval key image with reference to a table having recorded therein said information and the retrieval key image, correlated with each other.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising a processor for executing program instructions for:

receiving a name of a person;

~~an extractor for~~ extracting a facial image from said image data registered in said image database, ~~wherein said facial image is selected by selecting a point within the image data and determining that a facial image comprises the selected point, and the facial image is extracted when the point is selected;~~

~~a retrieval key image designator for~~ automatically converting the received name to a retrieval key image ~~designating said extracted facial image as an image serving as a retrieval key;~~ and

~~a retriever for~~ using said retrieval key image to retrieve from said image database image data containing facial images identical or analogous to said retrieval key image,

wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for ~~retriever is~~ graphically comparing ~~graphically compares~~ said retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data registered in the image database to identify images having facial images identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.